



DANUBE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS NETWORK meets the LÄND

13.05.-17.05
2026

The Danube Youth Organizations Network – or DYON – marks a new chapter in the story of European youth participation. Officially recognized by the National Coordinators of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in 2024, the network now brings together 49 youth organizations from the 14 Danube countries – from Germany to Ukraine, from Austria to Bulgaria. DYON was created to firmly embed the voice of young people in the political and social development of the Danube Region. Two instruments form its foundation: the Danube Youth Council (DYC) gives individual young people between 18 and 29 a voice, while DYON serves as a platform for youth organizations and networks – a union that promotes exchange, innovation, and cross-border collaboration.

DYON is not a short-term project it is a long-term structure that will grow with each passing year. Following the success of the first Boot Camp in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina the next steps are already set:

In November 2025, DYON presented its outcomes at the EUSDR Annual Forum in Sarajevo. In 2026, the second Boot Camp will take place under Bulgaria's EUSDR Presidency, again supported by the State of Baden-Württemberg.

In the long run, DYON envisions on two complementary strategies:

1. Bottom-up – from within outward: The 14 participating countries are encouraged to jointly contribute to the funding of a permanent DYON Secretariat. This would enable the regular

organization of Boot Camps under the rotating EUSDR Presidencies – as seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2025), followed by Bulgaria (2026), the Czech Republic (2027), and beyond. At the same time, DYON plans to produce annual national short films on youth, history, and cultural heritage in the Danube Region – serving as the “calling card” of an active, united generation

2. Top-down – through EU funding: In parallel, EU programs such as Erasmus+, CERV, or Interreg will be used to provide institutional support for DYON and secure its long-term structure. The focus is not merely on project-based funding, but on embedding DYON sustainably within the EUSDR governance system.

Both approaches – bottom-up as the heart and top-down as the backbone – complement each other. Together they form the foundation of a movement that turns vision into reality.

Register for the DYON Youth Camp in Baden-Württemberg, Mai 2026 and for Bulgaria, September 2026.

Link:

PROGRAM BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

13.05. Arrival at Burg Wildenstein

Exploring the surrounding area
Getting to know the DYON participants

14.05.

- Boat tour on the Young Danube
- Kolbinger Cave, etc.
- Hiking near Beuron
- DYON development and goals
- Swabian cuisine: making Spätzle with lentils

15.05.

- Visit to Heuneburg (Celtic village)
- Danube seepage
- Visit to the Jewish cemetery in Buttenhausen
- DYON results/outlook for Bulgaria

16.05. Methodius Day/visit to Ellwangen (tbc)

Reading: Dimitré Dinev, "Zeit der Mutigen" (Time of the Brave),
Austrian Book Prize winner 2025

17.05. Departure

Location: Burg Wildenstein

<https://www.jugendherberge.de/jugendherbergen/leibertingen-wildenstein>



Registration until March 27th, please contact stefan.barth@agapedia.de

CAMPS 2026 IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG AND IN BULGARIA

In the summer of 2026, two further DYON camps will take place in Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and Bulgaria to continue the strategic work on developing the Danube Youth Organisation Network for the future. In Baden-Württemberg, the focus will be on the organisers of youth meetings, while in Bulgaria, many young people will be able to participate and get involved.

Its goal is to rejuvenate the EU macro-region – with fresh ideas, sustainable projects, and active participation. DYON is therefore more than just a network: it is a movement, a symbol of the next European generation that embraces diversity as strength.

MISSION DYON

DYON is more than a network – it is a symbol of a young, cross-border Europe. The journey continues along the Danube and its many regions, where each wave carries a piece of the future. And that future begins with youth – united in the spirit of cooperation, born along the river Danube in the heart of Europe.

